


WEST MERSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REBOW CHAMBERS,
SIR ISAAC'S WALK,
COLCHESTER.

26th May, 1938.

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WEST MERSEA
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year, 1937.


The report is arranged in accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health circular No. 1650 dated 4th October, 1937.

The death rate 14.5 per 1,000 shows a big fall compared with that of last year which was 18.6. When corrected for age and sex distribution the figure 9.8 is well below that for the country as a whole.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. ALDERTON.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30262033>

West Mersea

Urban District Council.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—3,188 Acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1937—2,400.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books—924.

Rateable Value—£13,975.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£55.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is a compact Island community situated at the estuaries of the Rivers Colne and Blackwater, and about nine miles from Colchester with which it is connected by means of an excellent motor bus service. It is in a very healthy position and enjoys the patronage of many visitors during the summer months.

Most of the houses are owner occupied and have town amenities being connected to the sewer and water mains and being able to take a supply of electricity from the mains of the Corporation of Colchester.

There is very little unemployment and the main industries are fishing, building and agriculture ; in addition there is a certain amount of employment on yachts.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

			Total	M.	F.	Birth rate per
Births / Legitimate	...	24	10	14	1,000 of the estimated	
„ \ Illegitimate	...	—	—	—	resident population 10.0	
Still Births	...	...	1	—	1	Rate per 1,000 total
						Births—40.
Deaths	...	...	35	13	22	Death Rate per 1,000
						of the estimated resident
						population—14.5

Death Rate when adjusted by the comparability figure of 0.68—
9.8 per 1,000.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES. (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List).

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total Births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	0	0
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age		
All Infants per 1,000 live births		83.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		83.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0	

DEATHS IN VARIOUS AGE GROUPS. (Local Statistics).

Age Group.	No. of Deaths
Under 1	2
1—2	0
2—5	0
5—15	1
15—25	1
25—35	1
35—45	1
45—55	3
55—65	5
65—75	8
75 and upwards	12
	—
Total	34
	—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	M.	F.
Other Tuberculosis	1	0
Cancer	3	7
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2	1
Heart Disease	3	5
Other Circulatory	1	0
Bronchitis	0	1
Pneumonia	0	1
Other Violence	1	0
Other Defined Causes	2	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc. ...	0	2
Senility	0	2
Other Respiratory Disease	0	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

The Medical Officer, W. H. Alderton, M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. He is also Medical Officer of Health for the neighbouring Rural District and Assistant County Medical Officer.

The Sanitary Inspector, E. Stockdale, C.R.S.I. He is also Highway Surveyor for the District.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These are arranged by the County Council, who have issued a comprehensive list of examinations which can be undertaken.

Chief amongst these is provision for the examination of the public water supplies within the district of any Local Authority without expense to that Authority.

The following table shows the extent to which the laboratory has been used.

Specimen.						No. examined
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	30
Sputa	...	...	...	...	...	2
General	...	...	...	...	...	4
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	2
						<hr/> 38 <hr/>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The Public Supply from the Council's bore has been satisfactorily maintained during the year. It is somewhat saline in character, but analysis shows that it is of excellent organic purity.

Free Ammonia	...	...	0.0008	parts per 100,000
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0004	" " "
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	...	...	0.030	" " "
Chlorides	...	...	78.0	" " "
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	0.04	" " "
Total Solids	...	...	210.0	
Hardness	...	...	9.5	(All temporary)
Bacillus Coli	...	...	Absent	in 50 c.c.

Forty-five connections to the mains were made during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewage Disposal Works is now able to deal satisfactorily with all sewage arriving there.

An extra bed has been constructed to deal with purification of storm overflow water before this is carried into the main effluent channel.

Twenty-seven properties were connected to the sewer during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was necessary to check the pollution of Rivers and Streams in the District.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Apart from the small estate mentioned in my last report most of the properties capable of being connected to the sewer have been so connected.

In the rural part of the District pail closets are still used and on House Boats in the estuary chemical closets are mainly provided.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Dry refuse is collected weekly under contract, and dumped in a pit under the control of the Council; it is satisfactorily maintained.

SHOPS.

Routine inspections were made under the Shops Act.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary to abate nuisance from smoke.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools existent in the area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action was necessary for the eradication of bed bugs in any houses in the area.

SCHOOLS.

The elementary School in the District is kept in a satisfactory sanitary condition. It is connected both to the public main and the Sewer.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Dairy Farms and Dairies in the District are inspected regularly and the various Milk and Dairies Orders are complied with.

Six samples of milk were taken from Dealers and Producers and submitted for analysis all of which proved satisfactory.

Officers of the County Council also took samples at intervals for biological and bacterial examination.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughter-houses and Butchers' shops in the District are inspected on the days set apart for slaughtering and occasionally when additional slaughtering has been notified.

ADULTERATION.

Officers of the County Council take samples for the detection of adulteration of milk and other foods.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The County Laboratory is available for the chemical and bacteriological examination of food in the District.

NUTRITION.

Dissemination of knowledge on nutrition is arranged for by the County Council, mainly through the Child Welfare Centre.

SHELLFISH.

There are a number of Oyster layings in the estuary. This is one of the important industries in the District.

Samples have been sent at intervals to the Counties Laboratories for analysis and have so far been found satisfactory.

On one occasion the water from one of the pits used for local storage was found to contain *Bacillus Coli*. This was considered due to the proximity of House Boats moored near the foreshore. The contents of pail closets (chiefly chemical variety) from these house boats are deposited in the estuary and is a possible source of danger.

The Council have given consideration to this problem and have made proposals to the owners of the house boats for a satisfactory arrangement of sewage disposal.

Unanimity has not yet been reached on this matter.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

20th May, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE WEST
MERSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report for the Sanitary Work carried out during the year ended the 31st December, 1937.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

During the year six samples of Milk taken from Retailers and Producers were submitted for analysis, in each case the analysis proving satisfactory.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS.

Inspections of Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	20
Inspections of Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	25
Number of Samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	6

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Inspections of Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	31
Visits to Slaughter Houses for inspection of Meat	...	...	...	...	...	52

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	112	—	23	303	165
Number inspected	50	—	12	150	86
<i>All diseased except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil.	—	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil.	—	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	Nil.	—	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil.	—	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil.	—	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil.	—	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

ICE CREAM.

The provisions of Part II. of the Essex County Council Act relating to the manufacture and sale and retail of ice cream were carried out during the year.

Inspections of Premises	10
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

HOUSING

Houses visited—Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	55
Slaughter Houses visited	...	...	...	...	52
Foodshop visits	...	...	...	...	31
Cowsheds and Dairies visits	...	...	...	...	45
Bakehouse visits	...	...	...	...	12
Ice-cream producers and retailers visits	...	...	...	...	10

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Houses connected with the public sewer and new drainage work executed	27
Sanitary Accommodation at Camps visited	...	...	...	...	4
Defective Cesspools	...	...	...	...	1
New Cesspools	...	...	...	...	1
New Chemical Closets	...	...	...	...	3

WATER SUPPLY.

New Connections with mains	...	...	...	...	44
New Private Supplies	...	...	...	...	1

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Inspections made	45
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspections made	26
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

MISCELLANEOUS.

Deposits of refuse	2
Overcrowding complaints	...	...	...	...	0
Drainage nuisances	...	...	...	...	1
Shops Acts Inspections	...	...	...	...	25
Fish Fryers Inspections	...	...	...	...	12

Four samples of Oysters were found on analysis to be pure and wholesome.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

E. STOCKDALE,

Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING STATISTICS—YEAR 1937.

1. Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	0
(2) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	0
(3) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	27
					<hr/>
Total	...				27
					<hr/>

2. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	...	...	...	...	65
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...				97
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	37
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...				57
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	23

3. **Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	23
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

4. **Action under Statutory Powers during the year.**

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936 :—					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—					
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...				Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By Owners ... Nil.
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil.

5. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

- A. (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year ... 2
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 2
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 14
- B. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil.
- C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 1
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 8
- D. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil.
- E. Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... Nil.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE.

Since the small epidemic of diphtheria last autumn the District has been fairly free from notifiable disease; two cases of diphtheria occurred in January, these were the tail end of the epidemic of the previous year.

The arrangement for hospital accommodation has been continued with the Corporation of Colchester; this has been found to be satisfactory and sufficient. Minor infectious disease has been rather more prevalent than usual.

Twenty-nine cases of measles and forty-seven cases of Chicken-pox were reported.

Intimations from the school were received for the majority of these cases.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of Blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from disease or injury of the eye.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62, of the Public Health Act, 1925.

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE showing New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5—15	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
25—45	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE TABLE, 1937

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	2	1	1
Typhoid fever	1	1	—
Scarlet fever	1	1	—
Pneumonia	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises		Number of		
(1)		Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories	...	15	—	—
(Including Factory Laundries)	...			
Workshops	...	11	—	—
(Including Workshop Laundries)	...			
Workplaces	...	Nil.	—	—
(Other than Outworkers' premises)	...			
Total	...	26	—	—

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted.
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H. M. Inspector (4)	
(1)				(5)
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	...	...	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	...	...	—	—
Overcrowding ...	...	...	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	—	—
Other nuisances ...	...	...	—	—
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient ...	...	—	—
	unsuitable or defective ...	...	—	—
	not separate for sexes ...	...	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s.101)	...	...	—	—
Other offences ...	...	...	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total ...	...	...	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

